

## HUMAN LIFE THE CHEAPEST THING IN CHICAGO— THE GOVERNMENT RUN FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS

By N. D. Cochran, Editor of The Day Book.

Human life is the cheapest thing in Chicago.

The fire and police departments are used more to protect property than human flesh and blood.

More laws are made to protect property than to protect life; and there is always a desperate fight by property interests against every proposed law which is intended to protect health and life.

Every attempt to enact a law preventing capitalistic greed from grinding the souls and bodies of children into mere dividends for stockholders, has been desperately fought by employers; and that's why it is so difficult to get proper child labor legislation.

We, the people, don't appear to be strong enough to force the steel trust, the tobacco trust, the beef trust and other trusts to pay living wages and to work their employes only reasonable hours; and we don't appear to be strong enough to protect employes in their right to organize and protect themselves.

It is because property rights are more influential in government than human rights.

Learned and eminently respectable men and women, some of them leading lights in the church, study vice conditions in Chicago; and they report an intimate connection between low wages and long hours and vice and crime.

They make their report and have it printed at public expense. But the circulation is limited to a few high-brows, and the damning accusations against organized greed are pigeon-holed. Even the preachers on the Vice Commission didn't thunder their accusations from the pulpit when they couldn't reach the public through the subsidized newspapers.

Property rights were more potent with both press and pulpit than human rights. So the key to the vice report was pigeon-holed too; and vice conditions are much as they were before. Anyhow the cause is still there.

The wagons and autos of newspapers, express companies, department stores, and property interests of every kind rush through the crowded streets of Chicago, and men, women and children madly scramble out of their way to save their lives.

Property rights have the right of way. Humanity must clear the track and get out of the way.

Men, women and children are packed into crowded street cars like so many sardines in a box—because property rights have more pull than human rights.

Theoretically we have in this city a government of, by and for the people—something which exists only in Lincoln's Gettysburg